

## Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
INFO CINCPAC  
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TREASURY  
GOVGUAM

UNCLAS STATE 308336

ATTN PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 28 EA PRESS SUMMARY

### 1. ASEAN/CHINA

ACCORDING NCNA, USSR IS ANNOYED THAT ASEAN HAS HAD SUCCESS-  
FUL YR. "WHAT ANNOYS MOSCOW MOST" IS THAT PROGRESS OF  
ASEAN NATIONS DEALT BLOW AT AMBITIONS OF THE SUPERPOWERS--  
SOVIET UNION IN PARTICULAR--FOR DOMINATION SEASIA. IN  
YR-END COMMENTS ON ASEAN, NCNA PRAISED ORGANIZATION FOR  
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CONTINUING TO SAFEGUARD NATL SOVEREIGNTY BY "FIRMLY  
STRIVING" TO MAKE SEASIA AN AREA OF "PEACE AND NEUTRALITY"/  
FOR CONTINUING TO WORK FOR UNITY/ECON COOP IN REGION. NCNA  
ALSO APPROVED LAUNCHING OF 5 JOINT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS/  
PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT/OTHER MATTERS REGIONAL ECON  
COOP. CITING OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, NCNA SAID PHILS PRES  
MARCOS HAD RENOUNCED PHILS' CLAIM TO SABAH, WHILE MALAYSIA/  
INDONESIA/SINGAPORE AGREED GUARANTEE SAFE PASSAGE THRU  
STRAITS OF MALACCA (REUTER PEKING).

2. ASEAN

UNICOM NEWS SINGAPORE (JOC) REPORTS THAT PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT, COVERING 71 ITEMS, THAT WAS SIGNED BY ASEAN 2/77 WILL BE IMPLEMENTED JANUARY 1.

3. CAMBODIA/VIETNAM

OFFICIAL PP RADIO, MONITORED IN HK, ACKNOWLEDGED TUES THERE HAVE BEEN BORDER PROBLEMS W/SRV IN CONTESTED AREA W OF SAIGON. UPI HK (NYT, GLOBE) REPORTS THAT DOS HAS SAID THERE HAVE BEEN CLASHES BETWN CAMBODIA/VN IN NEAK LUONG AREA, THAT RECENT TRAVELLERS FROM VN SAY THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 2500 CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES. W/O MENTIONING VN BY NAME, PP RADIO SAID THAT "ENEMIES OF ALL STRIPES STILL NURTURE STRATEGIC DESIGNS TO TOPPEL OUR CAMBODIAN REVOLUTION AND WORKER-PEASANT REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE CAMBODIA THEIR COLONY FOREVER."

4. VIETNAM/INDONESIA

SRV FONMIN NGUYEN DUY TRINH ARRIVED JAKARTA WEDNESDAY ON TOUR SEASIA FOR DISCUSIONS ON ECON COOP W/REGION. EXPECTED MEET W/SUHARTO DURING 4-DAY STAY.  
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5. VIETNAM

CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AGENCY CTK REPORTS CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS ACCEPTED MORE THAN 5000 VIET YOUTHS FOR 2-3 YRS APPRENTICESHIP/SUBSEQUENT WORK IN CZECHOSLOVAK FACTORIES. AGENCY SAID FUTURE MECHANICS/BUILDERS/CHEMISTS/MACHINE TOOL AND FOUNDRY WORKERS/GLASS WORKERS SEEK QUALIFICATION IN TRADES MOST NEEDED BY SRV (GLOBE PRAGUE).

VIET NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCES NUMBER NEW HOUSES IN POST-WAR HANOI DOUBLED THIS YR, ALTHO CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FELL BELOW ITS TARGET (REUTER HK).

6. VIETNAM/GENERAL

NHAN DAN, OFFICIAL VIET COMMUNIST PARTY PAPER, REPORTS US "STILL BENT ON RECRUITING ALLIES FOR INTERVENTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES." COMMENTING ON PRES CARTER'S PENDING TRIP, PAPER SAID GOAL IS "TO CHECK CONTINUOUS GROWTH" OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES/"SOW DISCORD AMONG THEM" (PHINQ).

7. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

GROUP 144 VIET REFUGEES ARRIVED SYDNEY WEDNESDAY FROM MALAYSIA AS PART OF GOA PLAN ACCEPT 1,050 IN NEXT MONTH. REUTER (SYDNEY) SAID PROGRAM AIMED AT EASING OVERCROWDING IN REFUGEE CAMPS/AT PERSUADING REFUGEES APPLY FOR ENTRY

THRU OFFICIAL CHANNELS RATHER THAN TRYING SAIL TO AUSTRALIA  
FROM SEASIA.

IN 2ND PIECE, REUTER'S ARKUS (CANBERRA) SAYS GOA HAS NO  
INTENTION SHUTTING ITS DOORS TO ILLEGAL VIET REFUGEES,  
DESPITE MOUNTING ANGER IN DARWIN, MAIN PORT OF ENTRY.  
ACCORDING GOA SPOKESMAN, GOA "RECOGNIZES THE HUMANITARIAN,  
MORAL AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS" INHERENT IN UN CONVENTION  
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ON REFUGEES/WILL ACCPET THEM ON THIS BASIS.

WRITING FROM KLONG YAI, REUTER'S ROGERS REPORTS FLOW OF  
CAMBODIAN REFUGEES INTO THAILAND HAS BEEN "CUT TO A  
TRICKLE" AMID "CONTINUING TENSION" BETWN 2 NATIONS.  
SAYS EARLIER THIS YR, 150 CAMBODIANS WERE CROSSING  
FRONTIER ON FOOT EACH MONTH, BRAVING MINEFIELDS/RISK OF  
DISCOVERY/CERTAIN EXECUTION BY KR SOLDIERS. BUT FOR PAST  
2-3 MONTHS, ONLY 50 OR SO CROSSING; LAST MONTH ONLY 20.  
SAYS W/TROOPS ON BOTH SIDES NERVOUS/SECURITY-CONSCIOUS,  
IT'S MORE DIFFICULT FOR REFUGEES SLIP THRU.

8. CHINA

SEN KENNEDY AND PARTY IN SHANGHAI GREETED BY DEP SEC GEN  
OF CHINA'S INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ORGANIZATION  
WHICH INVITED HIM TO PRC. WSTAR (12/27) SAYS EMK WILL  
EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF NORMALIZATION DIPLO RELS.  
REUTER (PEKING) REPORTS KENNEDY TOURED HOSPITAL,  
DISCUSSED HEALTH CARE, CANCER. PHELPS (GLOBE 12/27)  
REPORTS EMK STOPPED WORKERS/STUDENTS ON STREET FOR  
IMPROMPTU TALKS.

CHINA REPORTS FAILURE INCREASE GRAIN PRODUCTION IN '77.  
NCNA BLAMES FAILURE ON WORST WEATHER (DROUGHT) SINCE  
COMMUNISTS TOOK POWER IN '49. FIRST TIME IN RECENT YRS  
PRC HAS NOT CLAIMED INCREASE IN RICE HARVEST. IMPORTS  
OF FOREIGN WHEAT, IN LARGE QUANTITIES SINCE 11/76,  
EXPECTED CONTINUE (UPI, NYT, JOC, WSJ; REUTER, SUN; WP).

NCNA SAYS STEEL OUTPUT IN '77 TO INCREASE AT LEAST 12.7  
PCT OVER LAST YR. RECOVERY ATTRIBUTED TO PURGE OF GANG  
OF 4 (REUTER HK).  
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CHINESE DELEGATION TO VISIT JAPAN TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE  
PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURE COLOR TV TUBES (REUTER  
PEKING).

NCNA SAYS RADICALS IGNORED WARNINGS FROM SEISMOLOGISTS

MONTHS BEFORE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKES STRUCK TANGSHAN REGION OF NORTH CHINA IN '76 (WSTAR 12/27).

UPI (HK) REPORTS TWO SHANGHAI PAPERS INDULGE IN SELF-CRITICISM FOR AIDING "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" ACTIVITIES OF "SHANGHAI MAFIA"/GANG OF 4 (LAT 12/23). VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN RULES OUT EXECUTION GANG OF 4, SAID TO BE LIVING COMFORTABLY UNDER GUARD (CDN 12/21).

NCNA SAYS BEST SELLING BOOK IN PRC 5TH VOL "SELECTED WORKS OF MAO TSE-TUNG." FOREIGN MATERIAL TO BE PRINTED INCLUDES WORKS BY SHAKESPEARE, HEINE, BALZAC, HUGO, TOLSTOY, BEETHOVEN, CHOPIN, HEGEL, ADAM SMITH, RICHARDO, AND HOLBACH (REUTER PEKING). PHINQ REPORTS MOST POPULAR SONG CURRENTLY "THE PEOPLE GLORIOUSLY CARRY MANURE TO THE FIELDS."

UPI (HK) REPORTS SHANGHAI BANK, ONE OF WORLD'S LARGEST INTL FIRMS, CRITICIZES PRES CARTER FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE INTL ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP (JOC).

#### 9. PHILIPPINES

FILIPINO COUPLE BEING TRIED FOR CASHING 3 LARGE CHECKS "WITH HASTE" AFTER MISTAKENLY GIVEN MILLION DOL CHECK INSTEAD 1,000 DOLS BY MELLON BANK OF PITTSBURGH. AFTER PLEADING NOT GUILTY AT EARLIER HEARING, CLAIMING MISTAKE OF BANK WAS NOT THEIR FAULT, COUPLE FACES SWINDLING CHARGES (REUTER MANILA).

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#### 10. AUSTRALIA

NZ SLOOP MISSING IN SYDNEY-HOBART YACHT RACE SAILED INTO PORT ON NSW COAST WEDNESDAY 8 HRS AFTER RADIOING IT WAS SINKING AND SEA/AIR SEARCH OF GALE-WHIPPED TASMAN SEA FAILED FIND ANY TRACE OF THEM.

#### 11. PACIFIC ISLANDS

USAF REMOVING 849 PERSONS FROM MARSHALL ISLANDS BECAUSE HIGH WINDS/HEAVY SURF. EVACUEES--US MIL PERSONNEL/LOCAL ISLANDERS--BEING FLOWN GUAM (PHINQ).

#### 12. KOREA

HOUSE ETHICS CMTE HAS CHARGED BONNIE ROBINSON, SEC TO REP LESTER WOLFF (D-NY), OF PERJURY/OBSTRUCTION OF CMTE INVESTIGATION OF KOREAN INFLUENCE-BUYING SCANDAL. WOLFF'S OFFICE ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING "COMPLAINT... NEITHER RELATES TO ME NOR ANY ACTION TAKEN BY ME."

WOLFF'S TESTIMONY HAD CONTRADICTED ROBINSON ON SOME POINTS (HORROCK, NYT; REUTER; GLOBE).

UPI (WP) REPORTS POSTPONEMENT UNTIL 2/27 OF TRIAL OF HANCHO KIM IN CONNECTION W/KOREAN INFLUENCE-BUYING

SCANDAL. ATTY FOR FORMER REP RICHARD HANNA (D-CALIF), ALSO DEFENDANT IN CASE, REQUESTED DELAY IN HANNA'S TRIAL UNTIL MARCH. BOTH TRIALS HAD BEEN SET TO BEGIN 1/9.

BANK OF AMERICA, IN SEOUL FOR 10 YRS, TO OPEN BRANCH IN BUSAN, FORMERLY PUSAN (JOC 12/28).  
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13. JAPAN

THOUSANDS OF FARMERS DEMONSTRATE IN TOKYO TO PROTEST US DEMANDS THAT JAPAN IMPORT MORE AMERICAN BEEF/CITRUS. AGMIN NAKAGAWA SAYS GOJ WILL SOON SUBMIT COUNTER-PROPOSALS, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS. LOCAL REPORTS SAY QUOTA FOR BEEF COULD BE INCREASED TO ABOUT 1/3 US DEMAND BUT SAY LITTLE PROSPECT FOR MOVEMENT ON CITRUS (REUTER, PHINQ; CSM; WP). FARMERS' REPS ON WAY TO US TO EXPLAIN POSITION TO CARTER ADMIN AND CONGRESS (REUTER TOKYO).

MEANWHILE, OFFICIAL TRADE DEL, COMPRISED 4 MEMBERS LDP, HAS ARRIVED IN CAPIOL AMID REPORTS THAT JAPAN NOV OVERALL BOP SURPLUS 2ND HIGHEST IN HISTORY. TRADE SURPLUS OVER BIL DOLS FOR 3RD CONSECUTIVE MONTH. FUKUDA HAS INSTRUCTED MINISTERS TO SEEK EARLY SETTLEMENT TO TRADE DISPUTE (NYT; WP; UPI, JOC).

LEWIS (NYT) REPORTS OECD WARNS SLOW GROWTH AND RISING UNEMPLOYMENT IN WORLD ECON MAY BECOME PERMANENT UNLESS JAPAN AND FRG TAKE ACTION TO EXPAND THEIR ECONOMIES. OECD SAYS UNLESS STEPS TAKEN, BUSINESS CONFIDENCE COULD BE UNDERMINED WORLDWIDE, COULD BE WORLD RECESSION (AP, SUN; PHINQ).

JAPAN TO BUY 4.5-BIL-DOLS WORTH US FIGHTER/ANTI-SUB AIRCRAFT OVER NEXT 11 YRS (REUTER TOKYO).

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HIT ALL-TIME HIGH IN NOV, WHILE UNEMPLOYMENT UP 30,000 OVER OCT. OVERALL UNEMPLOYMENT 2 PCT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (UPI, JOC).

JAPANESE CAR EXPORTS REACHED RECORD LEVELS IN NOV (REUTER TOKYO).

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JAPANESE STEEL OUTPUT EXPECTED TO DROP IN 4TH QUARTER (WSJ).

AP SAYS JAPAN HAS MADE DUESSELDORF, WGERMANY HDQTRS FOR ASSAULT ON EURO MARKET (SUN).

LOAN OF 140 MILLION DOLS TO BE MADE TO EGERMANY BY 23 JAPANESE COMMERCIAL BANKS. EGERMAN GOVT ALSO TO RECEIVE FUNDS TO PURCHASE 800 MILLION DOLS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT FOR PETROCHEMICAL PLANTS (UPI, JOC).

WORLD FAMED "ORIENT EXPRESS" NOW IN KYOTO WHERE IT IS TO BE CONVERTED TO HOTEL (AP, PHINQ).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

14. JAPAN

WSTAR EDIT SAYS US STEEL INDUSTRY MAKING IT TOUGH FOR CARTER ADMIN TO AVOID EXTREME PROTECTIONIST MEASURES. SAYS "REFERENCE PRICES" OUTLINED IN WH PROGRAM SHOULD BE TIED TO JAPANESE PRODUCTION COSTS. FEARS RECENT US PRICE RISE PART OF EFFORT TO BOOST LEVEL AT WHICH "REFERENCE PRICES" ARE SET, THEREBY GRANTING US FIRMS GREATER PROTECTION (12/27).

CARL ROWAN (WSTAR) SAYS THAT PUTTING PRESSURE ON JAPANESE WILL NOT SOLVE US PROBLEMS. SCORES PROTECTIONISM, BUT FEARS THAT IF CARTER DOESN'T WRING CONCESSIONS FROM JAPAN, CONGRESS WILL TAKE RESTRICTIVE ACTION AGAINST IMPORTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES (12/23).

JOC'S CULLISON SUGGESTS JAPAN MIGHT AGREE TO MAKE SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTROVERSIAL CONCESSIONS IN ORDER ALLOW STRAUSS TO VISIT TOKYO NEXT MONTH TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS. SAYS STRAUSS WILL NOT VISIT TOKYO UNLESS CLEAR THAT JAPAN HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT "THE MORE REASONABLE AND MEANINGFUL OF HIS OFFICE'S PROPOSALS." SAYS JAPAN WILL OFFER TO INCREASE BEEF IMPORT QUOTA TO 3000 TONS, BUT NO OFFER FORTHCOMING ON CITRUS.

15. SOUTHEAST ASIA

ROBERT SHAPLEN, REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO "NEW YORKER," DOES PIECE FOR GLOBE (12/26) ON SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TAKING PLACE SEASIA THAT COULD PROVE IMPORTANT TO "PEACE"/"WELL-BEING" OF WORLD. SAYS EVERY SEASIAN COUNTRY INVOLVED IN NEW DIPLO GAME OF "BRIDGE-BUILDING OR REGIONAL DETENTE."

CITES AS MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS: SRV/RTG PREPARING ESTABLISH DIPLO RELS; RTG/CAMBODIA EXPRESSING DESIRE RESUME DIPLO/TRADE TALKS; GUB TALKING TO CAMBODIA GOVT--2 "MOST STUBBORNLY REMOTE" COUNTRIES IN AREA; MALAYSIAN FONMIN 1ST TOP DIPLO FROM NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRY BE RECEIVED IN CAMBODIA, WHICH EXPRESSING "TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF INTEREST" IN ASEAN; RTG/LAOS RESUMING FLOW OF TRADE ACROSS MEKONG; GOM/SRV BEGINNING SERIOUS TRADE/TECHNICAL TALKS. SHAPLEN ADDS THAT NONE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS CAN YET BE SAID HAVE USHERED IN ERA OF PEACE/CONTENTMENT, BUT 1ST TIME SINCE WAR THERE SEEMS CHANCE FOR SOME SORT "MODUS OPERANDI" BETWN SRV/ASEAN COUNTRIES--RESULT SRV'S GROWING REALIZATION THAT ECON PROBLEMS/DIFFICULTIES IT FACES IN JOINING 2 DISPARATE HALVES OF COUNTRY WILL OCCUPY MAJOR PART OF ITS ATTENTION FOR NEXT 5-10 YRS. CONCLUDES BY ASKING WHERE THIS ALL LEAVES US--QUESTION SEASIAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ASKING. SAYS THERE IS UNIVERSAL FEELING THAT WASHINGTON HAS NEITHER "FIRM POLICY"/"POSITIVE INTEREST" IN AREA WHILE MAJOR INTEREST IN ASIA CENTERED ON JAPAN/KOREA/CHINA. SAYS US APPROACH SHOULD BE BROAD ENOUGH INCLUDE SEASIA, WHICH REMAINS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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STRATEGIC, SOCIAL, ECON IMPORTANCE; RECOMMENDS US SEND AMB YOUNG ON TOUR OF REGION.

16. CHINA

ROBERT PHELPS (GLOBE 12/25) COVERS KENNEDY'S TRIP TO CHINA. SAYS TRIP PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIM TO GROW IN POL STATURE; YET THERE ARE RISKS. CHINESE AS WELL AS JAPANESE, EAGER TO SIZE KENNEDY UP, SEE HIM AS POTENTIAL SOURCE OF POWER IN US WHO MAY BE ALTERNATIVE TO BOTH CARTER ADMIN/REPUBLICANS. TRIP ALSO OPPORTUNITY TO STAKE OUT A PRE-EMINENT ROLE IN FON AFFAIRS, ASIA IN PARTICULAR. SAYS SINCE DEPARTURE OF FULBRIGHT/MANSFIELD/SCOTT AND ILLNESS OF HUMPHREY, THERE HAS BEEN VACUUM IN SENATE LEADERSHIP IN FON AFFAIRS.

SUGGESTS KENNEDY CAN ADD TO HIS CREDENTIALS IF HI-LEVEL PEKING OFFICIALS ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS W/HIM/IF HE HANDLES HIMSELF WELL. BUT PHELPS WARNS SUCH DISCUSSIONS CAN BE SEVERE TEST, BECAUSE HIS NAME CARRIES BURDEN AS WELL AS AS STRENGTH.

WHILE IN CHINA, SAYS KENNEDY HAS LAID OUT 3 AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST: ENERGY, HEALTH CARE, LEGAL SYSTEM (READ HUMAN RIGHTS), BUT RUNS THE RISK OF TURNING OFF HOSTS IF HE PRESSES CHINESE ON ARRESTS/TRIALS/DETENTION/LABOR CAMPS.

MARY CABOT (GLOBE), BOSTON BALLET BOARD CHRMN, SAYS CHINA

EDGING AWAY FROM "PAS DE MAO." SAYS PRC COUNTRY WHERE  
BALLET/POLITICS CLOSELY INTERWOVEN FOLLOWING IRON GRIP  
ON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HELD BY CHIANG CHING. REPORTS  
THAT WHILE OLD REVOLUTIONARY BALLETS TO REMAIN IN  
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REPertoire, QUOTES HEAD OF PEKING BALLET SCHOOL THAT NEW  
BALLETS TO BE ADDED THAT "WILL BE MORE ROMANTIC, MORE  
NATL, W/COLORFUL COSTUMES, MORE GRACEFUL/CLASSICAL  
MOVEMENTS. PLOT...WILL NOT TAKE PRECEDENCE OR OVER-  
SHADOW THE ART FORM." BUT ONE NEW BALLET, CELEBRATING  
YANG K'AI HUI--WIFE OF MAO--EXECUTED FOR BEING COMMUNIST  
IN '30, CLEARLY AN ATTACK ON CHIANG CHING. ADDS THAT  
DIRECTOR, PEKING SCHOOL VERY INTERESTED IN WESTERN  
TRENDS, TASTES IN DANCE, THAT PEKING BALLET EAGER FOR  
US TOUR (12/25).

17. PHILIPPINES

SFCHRON EDIT (12/27) APPLAUDS PHILS SUPREME COURT HALTING  
OF PROCEEDINGS BY MIL COMMISSION IN TRIAL BENIGNO AQUINO;  
SAYS COUNTRY ACTED "NOT ONLY WISELY, BUT BRAVELY," IN  
CONTRAVENING MARCOS' WISHES. CALLS ON MARCOS PAY ATTENTION  
TO PRES CARTER'S REAFFIRMATION HUMAN RTS.

18. VIETNAM

IN SPITE OF POL UNIFICATION, CSM'S FRASER SAYS VN STILL  
HAS "FORMIDABLE PROBLEMS" IN WELDING COUNTRY INTO CO-  
HESIVE SOCIAL WHOLE--PARTICULARLY IN EDUCATION. SAYS  
COMMUNISTS ADMIT IT "WILL TAKE GENERATIONS TO ERADICATE"  
MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWN SCHOOL SYSTEMS OF NORTH/SOUTH,  
BUT WILL BEGIN BY "ANNIHILATING ALL TRACES OF THE  
PERVERTED AMERICAN METHODS OF EDUCATION." SAYS FOR PAST  
2 YRS, SRV CONDUCTING MASSIVE CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT  
ILLITERACY, EXPECTS 18 MILLION STUDENTS BE ENROLLED  
IN SCHOOL BY '80. SAYS ORGANIZATION, ADMIN, CURRICULA  
OF ALL SCHOOLS IN SOUTH BEING RECAST COMPLETELY, EVEN  
DOWN TO NURSERY LEVEL (ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTO SCHOOL  
CHILDREN). VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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